

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACTS
(DIRECT PURCHASE ORDERS TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS)**

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
National Exposure Research Laboratory
Ecosystems Research Division, Athens, GA**

The Ecosystems Research Division (ERD), Athens, GA, of the National Exposure Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is seeking a student or recent graduate with a minimum of masters level education completed in Environmental Engineering/Science or a related discipline (e.g., Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics, etc.) to provide services under a contractual agreement in support of a research project focusing on development and application of environmental model evaluation hardware and software. The preferred student will possess skills/experience in PC-based computing for Windows operating systems; environmental model development, application and evaluation; and will have a some working knowledge of C++, Java, FORTRAN, and Visual Basic programming languages. In support of its mission, the Regulatory Support Branch, RSB, is currently evaluating and developing innovative methods and associated software tools for conducting uncertainty analysis, sensitivity analysis, and parameter estimation for simple and complex environmental models. For additional information regarding ERD, visit its home page at <http://www.epa.gov/athens/>.

The student contractor will assist the mentor in performing tasks involved with upgrading existing state-of-the-science software methodologies in uncertainty and sensitivity analyses, parameter estimation, and parallel/grid computing for environmental modeling. Tasks to be performed include, but are not limited to: (1) investigating screening, local, and global sensitivity analysis methods; parameter estimation techniques; model calibration strategies; statistical sampling methods; parameter distribution transformations, and PC-based parallel computing approaches; (2) evaluating algorithms in the context of performing single-medium and multimedia fate and transport modeling, coupled with model-based exposure and risk assessments addressing ecological and human health concerns; (3) conducting simulation experiments and data analysis; and (4) configuring hardware and software associated with ERD's Supercomputer for Model Uncertainty and Sensitivity Evaluation (SuperMUSE). All necessary instructions and training, including training in the use of related SuperMUSE software and hardware tools, will be provided by Dr. Justin Babendreier who will also serve as the student mentor.

This work is to begin late August or early September, 2004. It is anticipated that the student will typically work a minium of 10 hours per week, specifically not to exceed 2000 hours per year. The initial contract will be one year with an option for 1 additional year. The duty location is Ecosystems Research Division, NERL, 960 College Station Road, Athens, GA 30605. The hourly rate for this position is \$20.85 (completed Masters degree level). If the selected contractor has additional education experience, they still must accept the stated rate. Any applicant without a completed Masters level degree, obtained from a recognized institution, will automatically be considered unqualified for this contract.

Student contractors will be paid the basic hourly rate only for the number of hours worked and do not receive overtime premium. Student contractors do not accrue leave or holiday benefits and are not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason. Federal, State, Local, and Social Security taxes will not be withheld; student contractors are responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes. Student contractors are responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station. The student contractor must have graduated from a recognized educational institution within 24 months of the

closing date of the contract announcement, or currently be a student in good standing enrolled in a similar doctoral degree program. Non-U.S. citizens may be eligible to participate, depending on their immigration status and the applicable regulations of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BIS), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

To be considered for this contract, you must provide a one or two page resume or statement of qualifications including: (1) student's full legal name; (2) mailing address; (3) telephone number; (4) email address (if any); (5) date of birth; (6) Social Security Number; (7) place of birth; (8) citizenship or, if not a US citizen, immigration/VISA status; (9) education, including description of relevant classes; (10) work or volunteer experience related to the scientific field; (11) laboratory work experience (if applicable to these services); (12) specific educational, work, or volunteer experience related to PC hardware systems and Windows/Linux software operating systems; (13) specific educational, work, or volunteer experience related to environmental modeling. Finally, provide a statement in your application indicating the total number of hours you expect to be able to work on an annual basis (e.g., 500, 1000, 2000 hours, etc). Attach a copy of your most recent transcript, listing courses taken, grades, and overall GPA. Send your resume or statement of qualifications to: Ms. Barbara Rowell, Director, Program Operations Staff, Ecosystems Research Division, U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development, 960 College Station Road, Athens, GA 30605; email rowell.barbara@epa.gov; or fax (706) 355-8026. The applications/resume submission deadline will be listed at the website given below.

The EPA procurement home page at http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd/ under the section entitled "Student Services UKE028-1, RFQ-RT-04-00384 contains additional information regarding details of the contract requirements. You should visit the website periodically to check the status of this procurement and to see whether or not any amendments (changes to the requirement of the posted position) have been issued. If you have any questions on the information contained on this website, contact Rebecca Clausen at clausen.rebecca@epa.gov. The Government will make contract awards based on the student's work and volunteer experience, knowledge and skills, training and course work as it relates to the services as described in the Announcement, in addition to general availability to work at least 1000 to 1500 hours per year.

Please check the evaluation factors document on the website mentioned in the previous paragraph. Students who perform under contract for EPA are required to undergo a background check, check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency. Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to Dr. Justin Babendreier, the EPA mentor for this position, at babendreier.justin@epa.gov.